(c) and (d) ICAR has not made any specific study in Himachal Pradesh. However, National & State Research Programmes and production scenario of maize and rice are discussed annually in Annual Workshop of All-India Coordinated Research Projects of respective crops and the research programmes are modified accordingly. Availability of quality seed and adoption improved production-protection technologies is a major production constraint in maize and rice in Himachal Pradesh.

Hazardous Chemicals

4896, DR.Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain chemicals like BHC, DDT etc, banned being health hazards are sold freely in the market; and

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) The use of BHC in agriculture and public health programmes has been banned w.e.f. 1.4.1997. The use of DDT in agriculture was withdrawn in May, 1989 but its use in public health programmes is restricted to 10,000 M.T. per annum.

As per the provisions of the Insecticides Act, 1968, the pesticide/ pesticide formulation which is banned for use in the country can not be sold/marketed. The State Governments, being the enforcing agencies under the said Act have been advised from time to time to keep a strict watch to check the use of any banned pesticide and take legal action against the offenders.

Allocation of funds for the development of SCs/STs

4897. SHRI VEN DHAMMA VIRIYO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Dr. Ambedkar Birth Centenary Celebrations Committee headed by the Prime Minister recommended allocation of funds for the development of SCs/STs proportionate to their population in the year 1993;

(b) if so, indicate the action taken thereon by his Ministry for procuring funds proportionate to the population of SCs/STs for the above purpose in the Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-97); and